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test, may possibly refer to the games called Eleutheria which were celebrated outside the city-walls (*cf.* Pausanias, ix. 2. 4). It may be desirable to make one more attempt, next season, upon this site, and to search again for the Temple of Hera inside the city-walls, at the church where last year we found the Edict of Diocletian. It is true that we came upon the native rock in digging in this church, but it may be desirable to continue trenches around the church, cutting them to the rock throughout. When this has been done, these explorative excavations may be considered as completed.

What seems to stand in the way of important discoveries of temples and sculptures at Plataia, is the fact of its evident importance in Byzantine and Frankish times. Our exploration has certainly taught an historical fact which seems to have been previously overlooked: for it is generally supposed that, after the classical period, Plataia sank into insignificance and oblivion. Our excavations, together with the existence of the numerous Byzantine and Frankish churches (there are over twelve scattered about the site), certainly prove that, in Byzantine and Frankish times, this must have been a densely-populated and important city. The people were probably attracted thither by the situation, which commands the Boiotian Plain; possibly, too, its walls may have remained standing. It appears to me also that Plataia must have been a centre of considerable importance in Roman times.

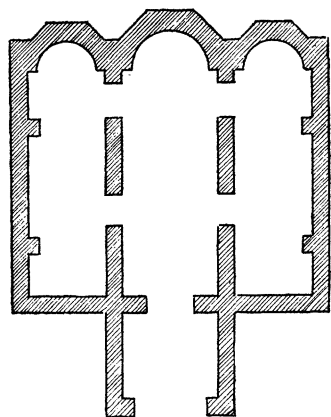
CHARLES WALDSTEIN.

American School of Classical Studies, Athens.

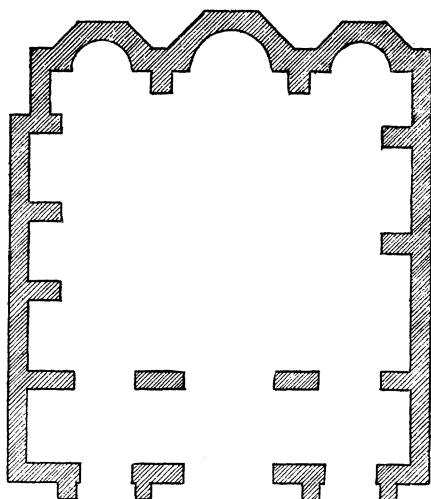
April, 1890.

II. DETAILED REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS.

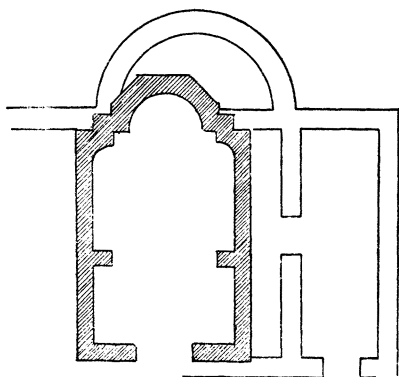
Work was begun Feb. 19 with 22 men at *Church No. I* (MAP, PL. XXIII), where two days were spent in partially clearing out the church and sinking a trench, running north, about 40 m. long. The paving-stones of the church (about 70×60 cm., and 20 cm. thick), of good white marble, were examined on the under side, but no sculptured work was found on them—they probably formed the pavement of a temple. Two late walls built with small stones laid in mortar were crossed by the trench, and at its northern end a low arch of brick-work, probably Byzantine, was laid bare. The trench was sunk to a depth (in places) of 2.70 m., but, with the exception of a fragment of



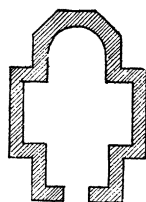
Church No. III.



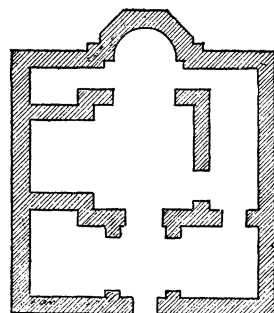
Church No. I.



Churches Nos. V and VI.



Church No. IV.



Church No. II.

FIGURE 18.—Ground-Plans of Byzantine Churches at Plataia (Scale, 0.1 = 1 metre).

a small sepulchral stele of late Roman work, representing a man and his wife, nothing was found.

On Feb. 21, work was begun at *Church No. V*. The church was cleared out, and a trench was sunk to the south of it running east and west. The upper cross-wall was traversed (at a depth of 50 cm.) at a distance of 37 cm. from the point *W'*.

Work was not resumed till Feb. 25, a feast-day, Sunday, and snow intervening. We then went on upon the same site with 25 men, and a larger apse, surrounding the smaller one, was uncovered.¹ Next day, with 30 men, the church-walls were partly torn down and numerous graves opened. The covering-stones of the "aqueduct" were laid bare (1.20 m. below the surface) for the space of 8 m. The aqueduct passes

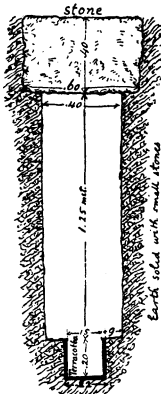


FIG. 19.
Section of Aqueduct.

under the city-wall and under the southeast corner of the larger church, running w. s. w. A section of it is here given (*Figure 19*). The top stones, roughly cut (of unequal size, but averaging about 60–70 cm. each way, and 40 cm. thick), are of a light yellow stone, somewhat like the *poros*: very soft when first found, but hardening on exposure. It is apparently a limestone, containing gypsum and a little talc, and comes doubtless from a ridge on which stands a small chapel, about two kilometers to the east of the city, toward the north from the Vergoutiani spring, near Argiopios. These covering-stones are not closely fitted, in places the holes left at the joints being filled with stones. Several have their edges bevelled, and apparently they were brought from some building.

At the place where the aqueduct passed under the upper cross-wall, the cavity left was partially protected against earth falling in by a rough block of the same stone tilted against the wall; while at the west end, where it passes under the corner of the church, the block was cut away obliquely to make room for the church-wall. This apparently proves that the wall was the earliest, the aqueduct next in date, and the larger church the latest. The trench was followed up subsequently, but to the west of the church only three of the covering-stones were found,

¹ There were two churches at the point where the aqueduct was found, the smaller one built on the site of the larger one. The builders of the smaller church knew of the larger, for the chord subtending the apse was the same in both churches (see *Figure 18*, *Churches Nos. V and VI*).

which apparently had fallen in, as they were lying irregularly. The aqueduct could be traced, however, by the terracotta drain-tiles at the bottom, and by its sides in the hard soil. It had no made walls, being cut through a very solid soil, composed of small irregular stones cemented by a clay-like earth, apparently virgin soil. The drain-tiles at the bottom are of well-baked red clay, like three sides of a rectangle in section (□), the pieces being 60 cm. long, 20 deep and 15 wide (interior measurements), and about 3 cm. thick. These tiles were joined together, end to end (not overlapping), by a gray cement, very neatly applied. The aqueduct was filled with earth to a depth of something like 80 cm., and when this was cleared out was found to have a very gentle slope down toward the west, *i. e.*, into the town.

The next day (Feb. 27), with 30 men, work was proceeded with at the same place, and bed-rock was found at a depth of 3 m., in the larger apse. Several graves were opened, and in them were found quite a number of rough Byzantine lamps and small jars and vases. No further work was done until March 6 (owing to bad weather, feast-days and strikes), on which date 21 men came from Kriekouki and two trenches were sunk, at right angles, inside the ruined church above the Vergoutiani spring, and an inscription was found. Work was also done at *Church No. V*. Next day we worked at a spot north by west from Vergoutiani, where lie a number of large cut blocks (about $1.20 \times 1.00 \times 0.30$ m.) of a coarse marble breccia. Three or four trenches were cut to virgin soil, but with no result. In the afternoon, two trenches were sunk at the ruins of a small church of St. Demetrios to the east of Plataia and northwest of Vergoutiani. The only thing found was part of a small and late smooth column (24 cm. high, 15 wide, and 8 thick) with an inscription. The same day a tombstone was found at *Church No. V*. Two days were spent in sinking two trenches 50 m. long to the south of *Church No. VIII*, running east and west. They were carried (one 1.20 m. and the other 1 m.) to virgin soil, but with no result except the exposing of three or four Byzantine walls of small stones and mortar. Lying on the surface, near the middle of the northern one, was found a block of cut stone ($90 \times 50 \times 30$ cm.) with the characters ΔΓ roughly cut on its upper surface near the middle. The characters are about 10 cm. high. To the south of this trench was uncovered part of a rough platform, a few centimetres below the surface, probably of Byzantine origin. A trench running north and south was dug to the east of

Church No. VIII, and uncovered a corner of the wall of some building, made of large roughly-cut stones, one of which measured 1.20 m. long, 70 cm. deep, and 40 cm. thick. They were only one course deep, however, and, after a few blocks in each side, became merged in a late wall of smaller stones. Some additional work was done in clearing out *Church No. I*, where a well was discovered, the brim being beneath the floor-level (about 6 m. deep and 1 wide), and also in sinking two small trenches at a spot which may have been the theatre. A flat piece of white marble (23 cm. high, 15 wide, and 5 thick) was found here with an inscription. Bad weather coming on, the expedition returned finally to Athens on March 13.

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Madrid, Spain;

April 22, 1890.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE AND WALLS OF PLATAIA.

The ancient city stood on a fan-shaped ridge or plateau, about 1.4 km. long, from north to south, and 1 km. in its greatest width, stretching down from the north slope of Mt. Kithairon toward the plain of the Oëroë. This plateau has its highest point at the southern end, where a shallow ravine, 50 m. wide at its narrowest point, separates it from the lower rocks of the mountain. From this point the plateau slopes down rather sharply at first, but toward the upper cross-wall very gently, the ground becoming almost level inside the lower cross-wall and rising again near its northern edge. In the northeast corner it is split by two small ravines, formed by a couple of little brooks running north. The question whether these existed in ancient times, will be considered below. The soil for the most part inside the walls is cultivated and fairly deep, at *Church No. V* bed-rock being reached at a depth of 3 m., and at *Church No. I* at about the same depth. In many places, however, especially to the west and south, the rock crops out, the soil being very thin. This is especially the case to the south of the north cross-wall, between it and the outer wall as far as *Church No. VII*, and to the north of it, about parallel with its general direction as far as the point *M* of the outer wall. In the northern, or lower, part no rock crops out except along the western wall, as far as the point *T*, and near the so-called votive cuttings. The rock is a coarse gray marble, much corroded into deep holes and